

Safety On The Road

Protect Your Eyes When Jump Starting

Jump starting a motor vehicle is a bit of roadside magic that many of us need to perform occasionally.

With a low or dead battery, a vehicle will not start. This battery is charged by connecting it to a good battery on another vehicle.

Leaving electrical devices such as lights running too long when the engine is shut off can drain a battery. Battery problems are more likely to occur in cold weather.

Jump starting a battery can be hazardous, however. A spark can cause hydrogen gas to explode. The result can be serious eye injuries from acid and battery fragments.

Before attempting to jump start a battery, check the owner's manual for the right way to do it for your type of vehicle and battery. Make sure the batteries in the two vehicles have the same voltage and ground.

Here are reminders of common battery-boosting procedures for many types of vehicles:

- First, wear eye protection when boosting a battery. Keep a pair of

safety goggles with your battery jumper cables. Do not lean over a battery or otherwise expose your eyes to possible injury.

- Turn off all electrical equipment such as lights in both vehicles. Turn off the ignition, apply the parking brake and put both vehicles in "neutral" or "park".

- The best method is to disconnect the good battery of the running car before connecting the battery cables.

- Connect the first jumper cable to the positive (+) red terminal on one battery and then to the positive (+) red terminal on the other battery.

- Then connect one end of the second cable to the negative (-) black terminal on the good battery.

- Do not allow the cable ends to touch each other.

- Finally, connect the other end of the second jumper cable to a clean, stationary, solid metal portion of the engine of the disabled car.

- Attempt to start the bad car strictly on battery power.

- If that does not work, start the engine of the vehicle with the good battery.

- Then start the engine of the vehicle with the discharged battery.

- Remove the jumper cables in exactly the reverse of the way they were put on, starting with the clamp on the metal portion of the car. Don't let the clamps touch any other metal until all ends have been unattached from the vehicles.

- It is recommended two persons carry out battery boosting operations. Communication and co-operation between the two are critical.

Maintain batteries in good condition to prevent the inconvenience and cost of dealing with dead batteries. Include the battery in each pre-trip inspection. If you must jump start a battery, protect your eyes!

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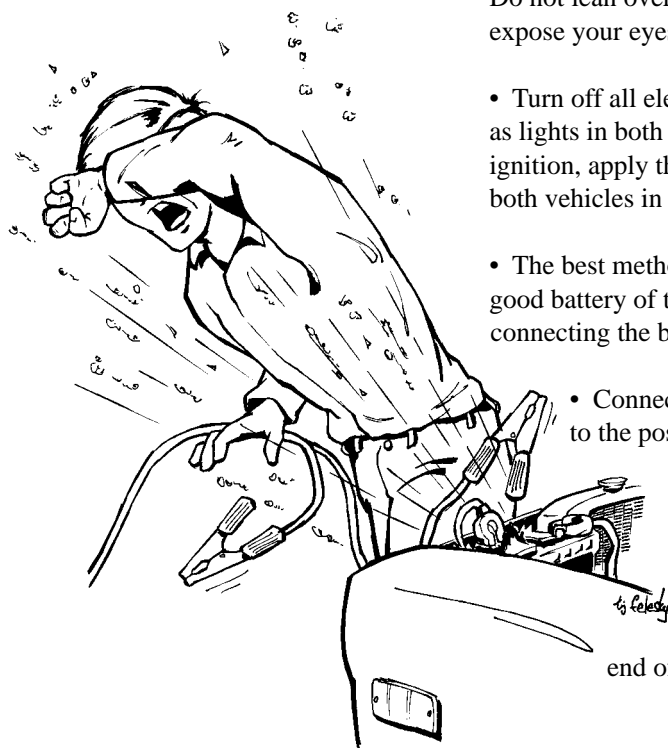
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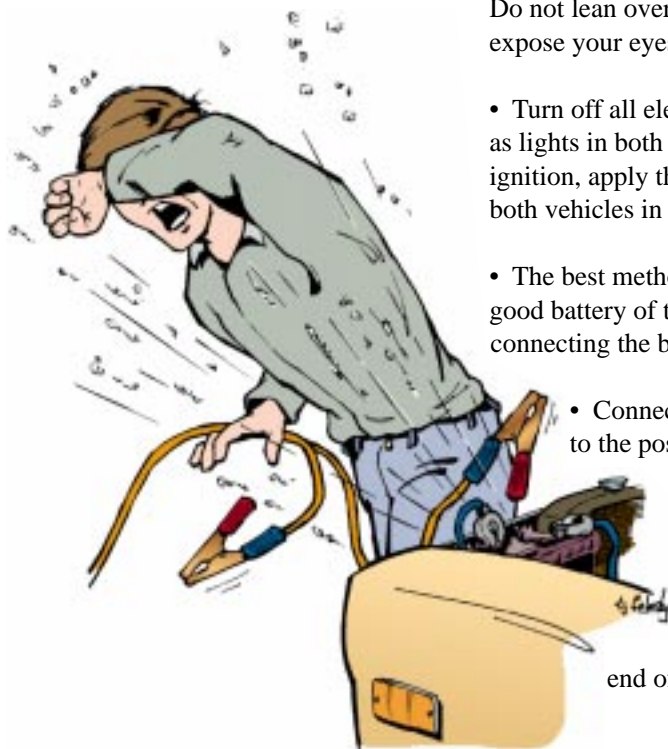
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